The Post

Sunday Special

NO. 601. [REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE AS A NEWSPAPER.] SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1917. PRICE ONE PENNY.

BRITISH TAKE 2200 PRISONERS

NEW BATTLE ON THE ANCRE.

BRITISH CARRY TRENCH ON ONE AND A HALF MILES FRONT.

CAPTURE OF IMPORTANT HILL AT BAILLIESCOURT.

Successful operations on both banks of the Ancre are reported in a despatch from Sir Douglas Haig this morning.

Positions opposite the villages of Miramont and Petit Miramont were attacked and captured on a front of a mile and a half, the British penetrating over 1000 yards into the enemy's lines.

North of the River Ancre an important position on high ground north of Bailliescourt Farm was carried, and a counter-attack driven off. In these operations 268 prisoners were taken.

These fresh successes contribute to the movement to outflank Serre hamlet, an important position which the enemy has tenaciously held since July last.

A further list of vessels sunk by enemy submarines, or mined, contains the names of eight vessels.

The War Loan is described by experts as being a prodigious success, and estimates of the yield range from one thousand millions to twelve hundred millions.

BRILLIANT BRITISH ATTACK ON ANCRE.

Press Bureau, Saturday Night.

The following despatch has been received dated British General Headquarters, 9.5 p.m., Saturday:—

Successful operations on both banks of the Ancre were undertaken by our troops this morning, and very considerable further progress has been made.

South of the river the enemy's positions opposite the villages of Miraumont and Petit Miraumont were attacked and captured on a front of about one and a half miles. We have penetrated over 1000 yards into the enemy's defences, and have advanced our line to within a few hundred yards of the village of Petit Miraumont.

Important Position Carried.

North of the River Ancre an important enemy position on the upper slopes of the Spur, north of Baillescourt Farm, was carried on a front of about 1000 yards, and a hostile counter-attack successfully driven off.

In addition to the heavy losses inflicted on the enemy, 268 prisoners, including six officers, have so far passed through the collecting stations as a result of these operations

Enemy's Second Line Reached.

We carried out two raids this morning south of Neuve Chapelle and north-east of Ploegsteert, where our troops reached the enemy's second line.

A large number of Germans were killed, and many dugouts and a machine gun were destroyed. We captured a few prisoners in each case.

Hostile raiding parties west of Lens and east of Givenchy were repulsed with loss.

We blew up two mines last night with good results west of La Bassee.

In the course of air fighting yesterday, one German aeroplane was brought down in our lines and two others were driven down in a damaged condition. One of our machines is missing.

OUTFLANKING SERRE HEIGHT.

Effect of Our Latest Advance.

London, Sunday Morning.

The significance of the successes reported this morning by Sir Douglas Haig lies in the fact that the British are now in a position to gravely menace the hamlet of Serre by an outflanking movement.

Miramont and Petit Miramont, two villages lying close together, are east and south of Grandecourt, and by the fresh advance Sir Douglas Haig is outflanking Serre and the high ground adjoining it in the east. Serre has since the first days of the Somme campaign in July proved a difficult position to take and hold, but with our new methods of attack, the success of which has been clearly demonstrated in recent weeks, our troops are now in effective striking positions.

That the gradual homming in of Serre and its dominating height is causing the Germans disquietude is evidenced by the efforts which, as in the operations about Grandcourt, they have made to recover their lost positions by counter-attacks and to conceal their reverses by mendacious reports. A typical example of their method of concealing defeat is shown in the Berlin communique received to-night, in which the latest fighting is referred to in exceedingly ambiguous terms.

The Baillescourt Farm region, which was the scene of a successful attack reported to-day, lies opposite the east end of Grandcourt. The farm was recently captured, and has since been held by us.

"FRESH INFANTRY FIGHTING."

German Report on Ancre Operations.

London, Saturday Night.

The German official report issued to-night says:—

On the Ancre fresh infantry fighting developed during the course of the morning, and was accompanied by strong artillery fire In the East there are no special events to report.

SHELLING ON WHOLE FRONT.

Paris, Saturday Night.

The following communique was issued here to-night:—

There was an intermittent shelling on the greater part of the front.

Fighting was more active towards Ribecourt.

RUSSIAN RAID IN BLACK SEA.

Petrograd, Saturday.

The communique issued to-day says:—

Our vessels in the Black Sea destroyed sixteen sailing schooners on the coast of Anatolia.

The Russians, since the fall of Trebizond, have maintained an effective blockade of the Anatolian Black Sea coast, and at intervals have destroyed large convoys of sailing craft laden with food for Constantinople. On occasion as many as forty Turkish vessels have been destroyed in one of these raids. The success of the blockade is having severe effect in Constantinople.

A THOUSAND MILLION.

ESTIMATED YIELD OF WAR LOAN.

"A PRODIGIOUS SUCCESS."

London, Saturday Night.

Not only Britain, but the whole world is waiting for the official figures of the War Loan.

Berlin, Frankfort, and Cologne will, according to London financial experts, have a staggering answer to the question whether the people in general in this country are ready to pledge that last shilling which is essential to supply the last man with equipment.

The exact figures will not be known for several days. The rush of eleventh-hour subscriptions was without precedent, but the Bank of England will probably be in a position to provide a rough estimate of the amount subscribed in time for Mr Bonar Law, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, to announce the figures to the House of Commons on Monday afternoon.

A Thousand Millions.

Estimates of the new money subscribed, quite apart from the conversions of the Four-and-a-Half Loan, the Exchequer Bonds, Treasury Bills, and War Expenditure Certificates, vary considerably.

Conversions of short dated Treasury Bills and War Expenditure Certificates have been heavy. The result is that the Treasury will be relieved from refunding them during the next few months, with the result that several hundred more millions are available for war expenditure, and this is as good as new money.

Added to the new money, this will probably mean a yield of practically £1,000,000,000 for the war.

A Prodigious Success.

In the last big War Loan Mr M'Kenna obtained between 350 and 400 millions, and in order to make up the Loan the banks had to take up two hundred millions. Thus it will be seen that anything approaching 600 millions in regard to the present Loan, without subscriptions from the banks, would be a prodigious success.

A Press Association representative was informed to-day by a responsible official that it had been roughly calculated that a conservative estimate of the total amount of new money is from £800,000,000 to £1,200,000,000.

(Further details on page 3.)

WHEELDON TRIED BY COURT-MARTIAL.

An Escape from Guardroom Cell.

London, Saturday Night.

A district Court-Martial at Salisbury today tried Driver John H. Wheeldon, A.S.C., for desertion from the Army and for breaking from the guardroom cells.

Wheeldon is the son of one of the women now awaiting trial on a charge of conspiring to murder the Prime Minister and Mr Arthur Henderson.

The evidence showed that accused was an absentee from the camp on Salisbury Plain on January 10, and was arrested at Derby by the civil police on January 31 and conveyed under military escort to the camp. He was confined in the cells, and on the night of February 3-4 he escaped by cutting a hole in the floor. He was arrested last week.

Accused pleaded guilty, and in reply to the President of the Court Major Beesley said he had nothing to say in mitigation of punishment.

A long record of imprisonment by the civil powers for offences ranging from common assault to housebreaking and burglary was put in.

Wheeldon entered the army as an attested man, and had been absent three times during ninety-six days.

Sentence will be announced later.

KING'S PHYSICIAN DEAD.

London, Saturday Night.

The Central News regrets to learn that Surgeon-General Sir Benjamin Franklin, hon. physician to the King and a member of the Council of the British Red Cross Society, died suddenly this morning at his residence.

Sir Benjamin Franklin was born on 1st May, 1844, and held several high positions in India, being surgeon to the late Lord Elgin while Viceroy of India from 1894 to 1899. He was also hon. physician to the late Queen Victoria and King Edward, and was knighted in 1905. The deceased was a British delegate to the International Sanitary Conference at Rome in 1907 and Paris in 1911-12.

2000 PRISONERS TAKEN AT KUT.

WHOLE SERIES OF TRENCHES CAPTURED.

PONTOONS FULL OF FUGITIVE TURKS SUNK IN TIGRIS.

London, Saturday Night.

An important success at Kut is reported to-night. By well-timed attacks the whole of the Dahra Bend, west of Kut, has been captured.

Nearly 2000 prisoners were taken. Several pontoons, by which Turks were endeavouring to escape across the Tigris, were sunk by our artillery. Extensive captures of machine guns, rifles, munitions, equipment, and stores were made.

GREAT ADVANCE AT KUT.

ENEMY COMMANDERS CAPTURED.

Press Bureau, Saturday Night.

The General Officer Commanding in Mesopotamia reports the offensive against the Turks on the right bank of the Tigris in the Dahra Bend was resumed on February 15.

An important tactical point just in front of the enemy's right was first seized. This initial success was followed by an attack on his right centre, which resulted in the securing of our objective on a front of 700 yards. These gains were afterwards extended by bombing to a depth of 500 yards and on a frontage of 1000 yards. Half-hearted Turkish counter-attacks were easily repulsed.

The Dahra Bend Cleared.

Some hours later an assault was launched against the enemy's left centre, and this objective was secured on a front of 850 yards. The whole of the Dahra Bend was thus cleared, except for small enemy detachments holding points on the river bank.

In the meantime the cavalry were operating on our left, to the south and west of the Shumran Bend, and made good progress there.

During the night of the 15th-16th the enemy were cleared out of the small areas which they still held on the river bank, and by dawn on the 16th all the ground in the Dahra Bend was in our hands.

The prisoners taken on the 15th and the following night amount to—

Eighty-nine officers, including two regimental and three battalion commanders.
1906 other ranks.

While the captures of material include—

Five machine guns.
2500 rifles, and a large quantity of ammunition, equipment, and stores.

Pontoons Sunk by Artillery.

Several pontoons in which the Turks were endeavouring to make their escape across the river were sunk by our artillery, and there is evidence to show that much material was destroyed both by our bombardments and by the Turks themselves.

On February 16, in spite of adverse weather conditions, a further advance of 1200 yards was made south of the Shumran Loop, and our advanced troops now hold the south-west corner of this bend.

TURKS CAUGHT IN A TRAP.

HEAVILY PUNISHED IN DAHRA BEND.

London, Saturday Night.

The last report previous to that published to-night from Mesopotamia was dated February 13, and reported that the enemy was driven back to his last line of trenches in the Dahia, which is west of Kut. The driving back of the enemy into the Dahra bend of the river has been a formidable operation, the whole ground being seamed with trenches. The communiques during the past fortnight have reported the capture of six or seven successive lines.

Some time ago the Turks were similarly hemmed in in the Mahomed Abdul Hassan bend east of Kut, but Mr Candler, the press representative in Mesopotamia, has related a clever ruse which enabled them to escape. They kept up the noise of digging throughout the night, then slipped quietly across the Tigris in boats, pontoons, and coracles, which they had kept concealed under shelters contrived in the banks.

On this occasion the enemy have not been able to repeat their ruse, but have suffered heavily in the final attack on the Dahra Bend.

In all these operations in the new advance on Kut, which have now lasted two months, the captures of prisoners have not been remarkable. To-night's report of nearly 2000 prisoners is the highest in the operations. The Turkish death-roll has been high, in spite of the elaborate nature of the defences.

Sir F. S. Maude's reports of all these operations do not mention any direct attack upon Kut, but it is quite evident that that peninsular position could be rendered untenable for the Turks at any moment. It is not on high ground, and is now commanded across the river on all sides save the north (i.e., the isthmus).

TURKS' VERSION OF THE ENGAGEMENT.

Amsterdam, Saturday.

The following official communique was issued in Constantinople:—

On the night of February 15, and on the following morning, a very lively artillery fire was directed against our position south of the Tigris.

After an enemy attack against our right wing had been repulsed a portion of our position was evacuated in accordance with an order given with a view to avoiding useless losses.

SENUSSI TRIBE'S PLIGHT.

LIVING ON DATES AND CAMEL'S FLESH.

London, Saturday Night.

A Cairo message says it is considered that the plight of the Senussi tribe is desperate.

Djarbub is the only oasis which contains the population in semi-starvation. They are subsisting on dates and camel flesh.

The War Office recently issued a despatch recording the complete dispersal of the Senussi tribes, who had been threatening Egypt on the Western frontier. The escape of the defeated armies was cut off, and they were compelled to flee into a waterless desert area.

MACEDONIAN FRONT.

ENEMY'S RIGHT WING REPORTED BROKEN.

Rome, Saturday.

A Salonika telegram reports that the enemy's right wing in Macedonia has been broken through.

Austrians and Albanians, who formed this wing, were dispersed with serious losses.

A wireless message from Rome says that a telegram from Petrograd states that Von Mackensen has received reinforcements.

London, Saturday Night.

The King and Queen invited a number of Overseas officers to Buckingham Palace this afternoon, entertained them to tea, and provided an excellent cinematograph show for them as well.

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1917.

ALL SMILES.

Miss Adelaide M'Hardy of Drumblair, Forgue, Aberdeenshire, was married to Captain James S. Wakelin, Royal Scots, in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, on Tuesday, 6th inst. The happy pair leaving the church.

WELL-KNOWN SCOTTISH LADIES ACT FOR RED CROSS.

Red Cross funds benefited considerably by means of an entertainment held at Johnstone, which was organised by Mrs J. Wilson of Colquhalzie, Perthshire. Mrs Wilson and her friends have already raised large sums for war charities by their dramatic productions. Our photo depicts a scene from "Carrotina," performed at Johnstone. Second from the right in group is Mrs Wilson, while her sister, Mrs Bulloch Graham, is the "gentleman."

KING HONOURS BRIDEGROOM.

L.N.A.

Viscount Ebrington, Scots Greys, heir to Lord Fortescue, and his bride, Miss Margaret Beaumont, eldest daughter of Lord and Lady Allendale. The Viscount has just been received by the King, who decorated him with the Military Cross.

WILL ATTEMPT TO FLY ACROSS ATLANTIC.

An attempt is to be made to fly across the Atlantic by Capt. H. Sundstedt, of the Swedish Aviation Corps, who has been flying for the Allies, and Lieut. K. Nyegaard, of the French Aviation Corps. Both airmen are in New York, and intend to fly from St John's, Newfoundland, to the Irish Coast.

"PUFFING BILLY'S" BRIGHT "SPARKS."

C.N.

Travelling through captured territory and on the way to the front line. (Official photograph.)

HINDENBURG AND THE CROWN PRINCE.

A reproduction of a photograph found in the possession of a German officer taken prisoner by the French near Verdun. It shows Hindenburg talking to the Crown Prince, who lacks his characteristically vain smile—perhaps Hindenburg is giving him a piece of his mind.

THE TORPEDOED ANCHOR LINER

The s.s. California, which sank within ten minutes, and with considerable loss of life, after being attacked by two German submarines on her voyage from New York to Glasgow.

IN THE LIMELIGHT.

The Hon. Josephus Daniels, Secretary of the United States Navy. He is fully alive to the United States' requirements in regard to naval strength, and has gained much popularity as a shrewd official.

A BIG RESPONSIBILITY.

The Hon. Newton D. Baker, the United States Secretary of War. He has fulfilled his onerous duties with marked ability, and is leaving nothing undone in pursuit of the United States military policy.

PROUD TO SALUTE THEIR KING.

Wounded Tommies saluting the King, whom they saw coming from Buckingham Palace. The wounded fellows shown in the picture have seen some of the heaviest fighting, and they are now in the company of ladies who have done splendid work towards alleviating their suffering.

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